Shenstone Parish Council

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MAY 2008 NEWSLETTER

Shenstone Ward

Cllr Mrs J Coton
01543 481412

Cllr T Cox
07792 512370

Cllr P Hadley (Vice Chairman)
01543 480724

Cllr Mrs R Hancocks
01543 480 560

Cllr Mrs S E McGing
01543 480980

Cllr Mrs J Summers
01543 481693

Stonnall Ward

Cllr Mrs S Beilby
01543 452845

Cllr C E Hollingsworth
01543 373926

Cllr J M Mason
01543 374364

Cllr Mrs V Neale
01543 374430

Little Aston Ward

Cllr Mrs E Minchin
0121 353 4996

Cllr D F Salter (Chairman)
0121 308 4421

Cllr I J Sanderson
0121 353 2244

Cllr Mrs V Thomas
0121 353 8786

Cllr Mrs J A Wilson
0121 353 5739

Clerk - Mrs S Nelson
01543 481947

Pavements are for Pedestrians!

Irresponsible parking is making life increasingly dangerous and difficult for pedestrians throughout the parish. However, a major area for concern is around the railway station and surrounding roads in Shenstone. Concerned residents have contacted the Parish Council to request support to crackdown on this hazardous behaviour.

Jon Ratcliffe (Our Local Police Officer) reports:
'As the local officer for your area I have been aware of issues around parking for a couple of months. I have had a site meeting with a representative from the Highways Agency, and he agreed that there are safety concerns at the site.
I have requested parking restrictions to be put in place with limited waiting. This will take time as notices have to be put in the press etc. When lines are eventually put down I will be the person who enforces them. Details have been given to the Highways Agency of all the concerns reported by parishioners, as these will support the implementation of a local traffic order for restricted parking.'

What is Anti-Social Behaviour?

Anti-social behaviour is any activity that impacts on other people in a negative way, and the key to categorising behaviour as anti-social must be consideration of its impact on others.

'Don't moan about it - PHONE about it!'

Call 08453 302010
Report all incidents to the police and help them to help you. All calls will be treated with strictest confidence.

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Chairman's Annual Report - 2008

As I approach the end of my 2-years' service as chairman of Shenstone Parish Council I look back with pride over a term of office filled with some challenges and many achievements. Shenstone Parish Council serves the wards of Shenstone, Little Aston and Stonnall, and includes Shenstone Wood End, Little Hay and Footherley.

I try not to take for granted how fortunate we are to live in such a beautiful part of the world. When I meet with members from other parishes I realise how well-served our community is. However, there is always room for improvement .

It is one of the responsibilities of the Parish Council to provide a platform for residents of the area to report what could be improved, what isn't working and what is of local concern. To this end Shenstone Parish Council funds a Parish Council Office in Main Street Shenstone which is open to the public weekdays (except on Mondays). The office is an innovative, well-used resource. Many parishioners take the time to report problems and offer suggestions which could improve the lives of all residents in the area.

The main concerns reported to us are speeding traffic, offensive graffiti and litter. Public transport is also vital to parishioners. Since the introduction of the free bus passes to the over-60's it makes sense that we should have accessible bus connections - members of the Parish Council have been lobbying to re-instate the 903 service and we are pleased to report that a new service commenced on Sunday 27th April - for more information contact Arriva on 0844 800 4411 or Traveline on 0871 200 2233.

At Shenstone Parish Council we are very fortunate to have a hardworking team of members whose wide range of skills are volunteered to serve and improve the parish. I feel so grateful to have such dedicated colleagues and must thank them all for their support during my time as Chairman.

Our priorities for the year ahead include;

1) Upgrading the facilities at the Playing Fields
2) Continuing to support Little Aston with the fantastic work that has been undertaken at Little Aston Recreation Ground
3) Working with District Council to improve accessibility to the Little Holms and Lammas Land Nature Reserve
4) Replacing worn out litter bins, dog waste bins and street furniture throughout the parish
5) Keeping the roads and pavements safe and free from litter
6) Listening and responding to the needs and concerns of parishioners
7) Ensuring proposed maintenance work at the road bridge Shenstone (planned for Jan 2009) is carried out safely and with minimum disruption

Jean Coton - May 2008

COUNCIL UPDATE: Councillor David Salter elected as Chairman to Shenstone Parish Council 13th May 2008

Shenstone Playing Field

- **Would you like to have a say on how the facility is run and what happens to it?**
- **Do you or your family use the playing field?**
- **Are you affected by how the playing field is used?**

We are looking for volunteers to join the Shenstone Playing Field Management Committee for 2008 to 2009. It would involve attending occasional meetings on a weekday evening, estimated to be no more than once per month, to discuss matters affecting the facility and to vote in the decision making process. *For further details contact the Parish Council Office on 01543 481 947*

Stonnall Village Hall

Would you like to help, voluntarily, with the running of Stonnall Village Hall? We urgently need a Booking Secretary, whose duties would include: maintaining the booking diary, showing the Hall to prospective hirers, advising charges and collecting certain payments. A mobile phone will be provided. A full job description is available on request.

If you feel that you are the person we are looking for please contact: Margaret Richardson on - 01543 374 541

Little Aston Centre

We are looking for enthusiastic and active new members to join the Little Aston Centre Committee. If you are interested please contact the committee on 0121 353 5393
Little Aston Centre, Between 14 & 16 Little Aston Lane, Little Aston, Sutton Coldfield B74 3UF

Do you have land available which could be used for allotments?

The Parish Council has powers to provide allotments (Small Holding & Allotments Act 1908 ss 23,26 and 42) and a number of parishioners have contacted the office to request provision. Does anyone have land which could be used to provide allotments? If you do have an area that could be put to use as allotments please contact Sue Nelson, Clerk to the Council on 01543 481 947

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Shenstone Parish Council Year 2007 to 2008

April 2007

- Agree to grant fund Playing Fields Committees £1500 (Shenstone/Stonnall/Little Aston)
- Village Design Statement instigated
- Consultation with parishioners questionnaires distributed and road shows commence
- Stonnall Village Hall status to Management Committee
- Little Holms - Habitat Survey commissioned

May 2007

- New Administration confirmed
- Chairman Cllr. Mrs. Jean Coton
- Vice-Chairman Cllr. David Salter

June 2007

- Refurbishment of the Pound at Stonnall commences - Project Manager Councillor Chris Hollingsworth
- £5000 set aside for ramp at Stonnall Youth and Community Centre
- Grant funding of Little Aston Recreation Ground continues
- Shenstone Village Hall - Financial support towards replacing tiles on exterior walls
- Employment Committee to commence process of recruiting clerk
- Co-option of Councillor (Shenstone Ward) - Paul Hadley

July 2007

- Vivien Evans, clerk to Shenstone Parish Council leaves post after five years service to head the Staffordshire Parish Council's Association as Chief Executive.
- Emergency Grant fund to Pavilions, Shenstone
- Appointment of incoming clerk Sue Nelson start date 19th July 2007

August 2007

- Training and familiarisation for incoming clerk commences
- No Full Council Meeting - Summer Break

September 2007

- War Memorial Bollards Shenstone re-set
- Grant Funding 2007 agreed as follows: Annual Donations of £1500 to Little Aston Recreation Ground, Shenstone Playing Fields and Stonnall and Lynn Playing Fields
- Rolling Replacement of Litter and Dog Bins through out the parish agreed
- Redevelopment of Little Aston Recreation Ground commences
- Traffic calming and inappropriate parking around the parish remains a major issue

Grant Funding 2007 to 2008

Friday Friends Shenstone	**£1200**
Little Aston Centre	**£1000**
Shenstone 1st Scout Group	**£960**
Footherley Club	**£500**
Shenstone Playing Fields	**£1000**
Little Aston Tennis Club	**£270**
Little Aston Pre-School	**£991.95**
Shenstone Village Hall	**£4061.06**
Stonnall & Lynn Playing Fields	**£2500**
Richard Cooper Room	**£2000**
Shenstone Cares	**£1500**
Stonnall Gardeners Guild	**£100**

October 2007

- Joint meeting of Lammas Land Management Committee and Shenstone Parish Council
- Co-option of Councillor - Little Aston Ward Councillor Ivor Sanderson
- Results of 'Have your Say' questionnaire published in Newsletter
- Stonnall Ward winners of the 'Best Community in Staffordshire' section of Calor Village of the Year Award and go through to the Regional and National levels of the competition - A fantastic achievement
- Royal Oak Pub Stonnall - plans received to demolish and build houses on site - a public meeting called in Stonnall
- SCAR (Stonnall Campaign about Roads) and SOS (Save our Shenstone) attend meeting with representatives of Highways at Parish Council Office
- Electrical Fire at Shenstone Village Hall

November 2007

- Service of Remembrance - Poppy Wreaths from Royal British Legion arranged for all Wards
- £100 Donations agreed for Festive Lighting at Little Aston and Stonnall
- Letter sent to Network Rail to request re-opening of link between Little Holms and Lammas Land to support the research and detailed request already sent by Lammas Land Management Committee
- Full report and photos prepared by Members to identify street furniture in each ward which require replacement or refurbishment
- Preliminary plans detailing railway bridge repairs

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December

- Support to Rosemary Hill Road Residents re Tesco Express Planning application
- Festive lights installed all wards

January 2008

- Lichfield District Council Local Development Framework received and exhibited at Richard Cooper Room, Shenstone Library and Parish Council Offices
- Emergency funds agreed to clean and clear blocked drains at Barnes Road Shenstone, which are causing flooding and hazards for residents in the area
- Draft Head of Agreement Document produced to formalise agreements between Shenstone Parish Council and Shenstone Playing Fields Management Committee

February 2008

- Precept set at £129,000 for 2008 to 2009 financial year
- Network Rail respond to confirm they will re-instate the link between the Little Holms and Lammas Land
- Shenstone Playing Field Management Committee expresses concerns about Draft Head of Agreement Document

March 2008

- Damage to Little Holms Nature Reserve - Members of Parish Council meet with representatives of South Staffs Water to seek resolution
- £2000 grant received from Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association to be utilised to improve appearance of traffic islands in each ward
- Meeting held between Shenstone Playing Fields Management Committee and Members of the Parish Council to discuss way forward
- S106 Funding— Further to extensive consultation with parishioners via road-shows, surveys and Parish Council publications - Shenstone Parish Council request S106 funding to be utilised to improve access to the Little Holms and Lammas Land Nature Reserve - this is agreed in principal by Lichfield District Council

SHENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Monday	Closed
Tues/Wed/Thurs	0930 to 1230 hrs
	1400 to 1500 hrs
Friday	0830 to 1200 hrs

There will be times when the clerk is not available so in order to ensure an appointment it is recommended that you telephone the office first on 01543 481 947

News from Stonnall
Calor Village of the Year Competition

On Monday 21st April at precisely 9.20am, two judges arrived at the Youth and Community Centre in Stonnall for the Regional Round of the Calor Village of the Year Competition. The Centre was set up with stalls representing the many different groups, events and activities which happen in Stonnall on a weekly, monthly or annual basis beginning with Sunday and the services at church. We were afraid that the judges would finish well before their 2 hours allotted judging time but, in the event, they reached the last stall just before 11.20am which gave them time to say a few words, finish their drinks and depart.
Whatever the final result, everyone agreed that it had been a splendid morning.

WELCOME PLANTERS

Following an initiative to make our Parish more attractive and welcoming to visitors, members of the Parish Council resolve that 'Welcome Planters' would be an attractive addition to each Ward.

Planters have so far been located in Stonnall and Shenstone - further requests have been made and we're delighted to report that many complimentary comments have been received. A vote of thanks to the green-fingered members of the Parish Council who provided the expertise and labour to install these 'welcoming' additions!

NOTICE BOARDS

You may *notice* that new Notice Boards have been installed in Shenstone, Little Aston and Stonnall - the old notice boards have been donated to local groups.

PROPOSED POST OFFICE CLOSURE STONNALL

Members were dismayed to hear that Stonnall Post Office has been ear-marked for closure - that famous Stonnall Community spirit is fighting against the closures and a petition and open meetings are planned. Local MPs are also fighting this closure.

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Little Aston Recreation Ground

An Open Afternoon was held on Sunday April 20th from 1pm to 4pm which, despite the seriously inclement weather, was well supported.

September 17th 2007 was the day all the Management Committee had been waiting for as machinery arrived and, at last, a start was made on the extension and redevelopment of the Recreation Ground.

A general view - prior to planting - November 2007

All the hours of filling in grant application forms seemed worthwhile and it was very exciting to watch the new field take shape.

Now, in March 2008, all the landscaping has been completed. The paths are in and so are lots of heathers and over 2,000 trees and shrubs. This is the end of Phase 1: it was completed on time and within budget, and is all paid for. We are particularly proud of our new seats, each one being made from 2,000 re-constituted plastic bottles. We are asking residents or local groups to sponsor these seats and this will be acknowledged with a plaque on the seat giving any details the donor requests. Please let us know if you are interested in sponsoring one of these environmentally friendly seats.

We have had good support from the local school. One very cold morning in November a community group, including children from the school,

'Spreading the heather in December 2007 - with schoolchildren from Little Aston!'

went to Sutton Park to collect over 100 potato bags of heather clippings. The Park Rangers had cut the heather with a machine and we had to fill the bags and transport them back to Little Aston. These were stored in a barn at Home Farm whilst the ground was prepared. In December the clippings were spread on a large area by the same group and hopefully the seeds will drop and we shall have a large heather bed for free - paid for in aching muscles! After the spreading the children went on to plant a copse of trees which will be suitably labelled.

The background work for Phase 2 is well under way. Initially this will cover the provision of new play equipment. We have raised the funds to cover this and are in the process of getting tenders for the purchase and installation of equipment. Hopefully we shall be able to open the ground as soon as this is installed - around the end of May or beginning of June 2008.

The large grassed playing field will not be ready for use until Spring 2009 in order to allow the roots to get firmly established. Temporary fencing has been erected around it and we hope the public will respect this once we are open.

Jean Wilson - Chairman
Little Aston Recreation Ground Association
Tel: 0121 353 5739

Lichfield District Council - 01543 308 000
Business Support - 01543 308 166
Car Parks - 01543 308 999
Community Development - 01543 308 230
Community Grants - 01543 308 220
Community Safety - 01543 308 005
Community Transport - 01543 308 165
Countryside/Conservation - 01543 308 186 / 203
Dangerous Buildings & Structures - 01543 308 157
Development Plan - 01543 308 183
Disability & Equalities - 01543 308 145
Elections & Electoral Registration - 01543 308 125
Empty Property Hotline - 01543 308 706
Environmental Health - 01543 308 725
Fraud Hotline - 0800 783 1030
Homelessness & Housing - 01543 308 709
Housing Benefit - 01543 308 900
Lichfield Garrick Theatre
Box Office - 01543 312 121
Lichfield Tourism - 01543 308 216
Listed Buildings - 01543 308 188
Markets - 01543 309 850
Parks & Playing Fields Enquiries - 01543 308 863
Planning Enquiries - 01543 308 174
Unauthorised Development - 01543 308 205
Social Services - 01543 510 800
Tourist Information Centre - 01543 412 112
Trading Standards - 0845 330 3313

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Community Organisations Contact Details

SHENSTONE

Shenstone Cares	Wendy Johnson	01543 672378
Shenstone Day Care (Friday Friends)	Margaret Ward (Co-ordinator)	01543 480602
Shenstone Church Hall Booking Secretary	Mrs V. Chmiel	01543 480356
Shenstone Village Hall Booking Secretary	Theresa Rock	01543 481504
Shenstone Wesley Hall Booking Secretary	Colin Fishwick	01543 480618
Cooper Room Booking Secretary	Kath Taylor	01543 481421
Shenstone Village News	Sue Heseltine	01543 480548
Scouts groups (Shenstone)	Dai Davies	0774 7620156
District Councillor Matthew Ellis	www.matthewellis.cc	01543 480 644
Shenstone Tennis Club	Mr. N. Clarke	01543 480 765
Women's Evening Institute (Shenstone)	Margaret Pyke	01543 480527
Women's Afternoon Institute (Shenstone)	Mrs Boosie	01543 480438
Shenstone Tennis Club	Brian Morris	01543 480691
Parish Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator	Mrs J Norton	01543 481718
Shenstone Library Afternoon/Evening Reading Group	Frances Kennedy	01543 480146
Shenstone (Parish) Library		01543 480915
Lammas Land Management Committee	Jim Calder	01543 480983
Shenstone Pathfinders Football Club	Alan Williams	01543 255562
Shenstone Playing Fields	Cathy Penrose	01543 480274
Shenstone Painting Class	Dave Upton	0121 353 5338
Shenstone Quilters	Janet Hickie	01543 481100
National Women's Register – Shenstone	Elaine Cooper	01543 480015
Shenstone Art Class (Wednesday)	Colin Clifton	0121 353 6296
Shenstone Friends and Neighbours	Cynthia Stokes	01543 480032
Rainbow Guide Group— Shenstone	Rosemary Lawrence	01543 483 437

STONNALL

Village News Stonnall/Stonnall Singers	Cllr Mrs. V. Neale	01543 374430
Stonnall Painting Class	Geoff Hunt	07941 428625
Stonnall Village Hall (Bookings)	Dot Horton/Maureen Williams	374796/374627
Pre School Play Group	Jenny Simkins	01543 476 014
Stonnall Youth Club/Coffee Club	Cllr J Mason/Cllr Mrs. V. Neale	374364/374430
Stonnall Gardeners Guild	Cllr J Mason	01543 374364
Stonnall Players	Sheila Pritchard	01543 372583
Stonnall Guides	Alison Peat	07818 662776
Stonnall Scouts/ Beavers/Cubs	Nick Simkins	01543 476014
Stonnall Playing Fields Management Committee	D Andrews	01543 373394
Stonnall Women's Institute	Mary Jenkinson	01543 373105
Stonnall Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator	Ian Wragg	01543 374091
Stonnall Needlecraft Class	Cllr Mrs. V. Neale	01543 374430
Stonnall and Lynn History and Conservation Society	Lynne Ingram	01543 374629
Stonnall Reading Group	Deirdre Hollingsworth	01543 373926

LITTLE ASTON

Little Aston Recreation Ground (LARGA)	Joanne Hateley	0121 353 3342
Little Aston Table Tennis Club	Ron Leighton	0121 353 6157
Little Aston Pre School Play Group		
Little Aston Community Association	Alan Wilson	0121 353 5739
Little Aston Centre	Joyce Smith	0121 353 5393
Little Aston Bowling Club	Rod Crowley	0121 353 8238
Little Aston Tennis Club	Richard Sochon	0121 353 3226
Little Aston Women's Institute	Jo Harris	0121 353 6748
Little Aston Evening Women's Institute	Doreen Miller	0121 308 4732

USEFUL NUMBERS

Footherley Club	Isobel Smith	01543 480678
Telephone Preference Service for blocking unwanted calls		0845 0700707
Police (non emergencies)		08453 302010
British Transport Police		0800 405040
Pollution Incident Hotline		0800 807060
Trading Standards		01785 226000
Clarence Phone Line for Reporting Highway Problems		0800 232323

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REGULAR COMMUNITY EVENTS

All events are open to anyone to come along

Tuesdays	Jon Ratcliffe—Community Policeman attends Shenstone Library from 10.00 am (First Tuesday of each month)
Wednesdays	Stonnall Coffee Club 10.00 to 12.00 at Stonnall Youth and Community Centre
Friday Friends	Activities and lunch for the more mature members of the community from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm (Volunteers always needed) Shenstone Village Hall , Barnes Road, Shenstone

Greysbrooke School's 40th Birthday Party on Saturday 5th July 2008 2 - 6pm

Latest news ……

We have been working hard to ensure that this will be a fun packed family event. So far, we've arranged:

A Giant Climbing Wall	A 37ft inflatable assault course
Donkey Rides	Ceramic Painting
A Sixties Live Band	Irish Dancing and Demonstration
Face Painting	Balloon modelling
Temporary Tattoos	Street Dance
Falconry Display	Surf and Snowboard simulator
Pig Roast	Tangerine Tots Inflatable area
Ice Cream Man	Circus Skills Workshops

The School Choir will be performing and members of St. John's Church will be manning a play area, plus lots more…….

There will be lots of memorabilia of the last 40 years on show in the School Hall, and we are trying to contact previous pupils and teaching staff. If anyone can help in any way or would like more information about our special day contact Greysbrooke School on 01543 480 321 or Bridget on 07711 142006.

This celebration afternoon is being completely funded by joint contributions from the school, Frogs and the generosity of local businesses including, South Staffs Freight Services Ltd, Russell's Butchers, MIA Heating Services Ltd, The Snowdome, SCA Packaging Ltd., and many more.

Shenstone Parish Council Meetings 2nd Tuesday of each calendar month (except August) at 7.15pm

- *June 10th 2008 Little Aston Primary School*
- *July 8th 2008 Stonnall Youth & Community*
- *Sept 9th 2008 Shenstone Village Hall*
- *Oct 14th 2008 Little Aston Primary School*
- *Nov 11th 2008 Stonnall Youth & Community*
- *Dec 9th 2008 Shenstone Village Hall*
- *Jan 13th 2009 Little Aston Primary School*
- *Feb 10th 2009 Stonnall Youth & Community*
- *March 10th 2009 Shenstone Village Hall*

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by e-mail please contact the Parish Council

admin@shenstone-staffs.gov.uk

STOP PRESS: DOG FOULING

Lichfield District Council resident prosecuted and fined £160 for allowing her dog to foul and failing to remove her dog's faeces - Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 PLEASE CLEAN IT UP!

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